

V.—SCHOOLS.

The school children in the Rainford Urban District are inspected regularly by the School Medical Department of the Lancashire County Council, who make all necessary arrangements for the treatment and following up of defects.

School Closure.

It was found necessary to close the schools for a week due to an epidemic of measles.

School Feeding.

The Feeding Centre in Alfred Street has been found to be very satisfactory.

Milk is provided by the Lancashire County Council Education Committee to children in the schools in necessitous cases, under the Milk Marketing Board's scheme.

Samples of milk delivered to each school are taken quarterly for pathological examination for tuberculosis. The samples in 1947 all proved satisfactory.

Cleanliness.

Reference was made in the Report for 1941 to the incidence of verminous infestation in school children. Cleanliness inspections still constitute an important part of the work of the School Nurse and vigorous action is taken where infestation is found.

VI.—HOUSING.

Post-War Housing.

The two schemes, consisting of 28 houses Southern's Lane and 6 houses Old Lane, which were reported as being in hand in the report for 1946, have now been completed. A further scheme of six houses at the rear of the Derby Arms Hotel is now in hand, and a scheme of 22 Airey Houses is contemplated in the near future.

Due to increased duties, it has not been possible to carry out the normal routine inspection of houses in the District. The staff available in normal times was limited, and extra duties, such as Civil Building Licensing Work, have prohibited such inspections.

VII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Much time and attention is devoted to this important subject with a view to providing and maintaining a pure and safe milk supply. The Government have effected far-reaching changes whereby the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are made responsible for the enforcement of conditions relating to clean milk production at the dairy farms.

On the 31st December, 1944, there were registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :

- 5 persons as cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk ;
- 13 persons as cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk ;
- 2 persons as purveyors of milk.

The approximate number of cows in the District is 240.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection : There were no slaughter houses in operation in the District during the year.

VIII.—FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No change has occurred in the number of factories and workshops within the district since last year.

IX.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1947 the total number of notifications of infectious disease received in the department was 73.

Hospital accommodation is provided at Ormskirk by arrangement with the Ormskirk Urban District Council, and is adequate.

Scarlet Fever.

- 4 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, four less than last year.

Whooping Cough.

4 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, twenty less than last year.

Measles.

64 cases of measles were notified during the year, an increase of 61 cases on last year.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

It is important that the drive to secure the immunisation of all children should not be relaxed.

Treatment of Diphtheria.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is readily available for use in the event of an outbreak of diphtheria. The antitoxin is provided free of charge and is kept by the Medical Practitioners in the District.

The following is a table of notifications of infectious disease received during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Disease	Total cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 & Over
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	64	—	4	16	10	1	36	2	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	73	1	5	12	11	1	38	2	—	3	—	—	—

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 1947 the number of children immunised for the first time was 91.

A very high proportion of the children living in Rainford have now been immunised. Special attention is directed towards securing the treatment of the young child, as it is amongst infants that diphtheria takes its greatest toll.

Most parents are well familiar with the Council's Scheme and are anxious to avail themselves of the facilities provided.

As soon as an infant in the Urban District attains 1 year, the mother is invited to bring it for treatment to the Child Welfare Centre.

In this work, Dr. S. N. Wright, of the County Staff, rendered valuable assistance. The County Health Visitor, Miss Melia, gave freely of her time, and her co-operation was essential and valuable. Upon Miss T. M. Ellerington fell the responsibility for making appointments and keeping records.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives the numbers of new cases of both forms of the disease, together with the deaths therefrom. The figures include all primary cases and other cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—

The Scheme for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in the administrative county is in the hands of the Lancashire County Council, who provide dispensaries, sanatoria and home visiting.

The Dispensary for Tuberculosis patients in the Rainford District is in Hardshaw Street, St. Helens.

Full co-operation exists with the Tuberculosis Officer covering the Rainford area.

Notification of tuberculosis was found to be complete and satisfactory during 1947.

